

# RED RIVER RAMBLINGS

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 12 ♦ May 2019

Sunday, May 5, 2019 - 11:15 am

## Living the Life of Aloha

Dorayne Breedlove, *speaking*  
Doug Klein, *guest musician*

This morning's assembly is all about living the life of LOVE. Dorayne Breedlove will share 5 key concepts that allow us to live a life of love everywhere we go. Drawing upon her experience of Hawaii and the deeper spiritual meaning of Aloha, we will come to understand the important and necessary role we play as channels for love especially through challenging moments.

*Dorayne Breedlove is a storyteller, musician, and Spiritual Life Coach. Having roots in the Unitarian Universalist philosophy, she lives and practices the universal truth of the interconnectedness of all life. Over the years, these "roots" have supported her work to be a peacemaker and teacher of practical spirituality.*

Sunday, May 12, 2019 - 11:15 am

## Mothers & Flowers

The Worship Team, *leading*

In 1872 Unitarian Julia Ward Howe began advocating the creation of a "Mother's Day for Peace." Her original concept has completely died out. The history of Mother's Day reminds us that it is more than a day for flowers and pancakes. It's a time to highlight the aspects of motherhood that are not usually visible in the greeting card aisles.

In 1923 Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia created a symbolic ritual to bind people more closely. His original concept has flourished and spread throughout Unitarian Universalism as a living tradition celebrated each spring.

On Sunday, we ask that you **bring a flower or two** as together we remember a "Mother's Day for Peace" and symbolically bind people together with our Flower Communion.



Sunday, May 19, 2019 - 11:15 am

## Spring Congregational Meeting Today

### What's the Big Idea?

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

Unitarian Universalism is a big idea, emerging from the depths of our beings. It is one thing to describe it with careful, prosaic words that skip like small stones along the surface of the deeps. But if we want the world to really know this big idea, we must dive below the prose into the poetry, prophesy, and power that lies beneath.

*Christine Tata has enjoyed visiting Red River from time to time through the years to preach, lead workshops, and appreciate the growth and sincerity of this fellowship. She brings a lifelong interest in religion and spirituality, a variety of academic and professional credentials, and pastoral experience as ordained minister for several progressive congregations. Christine now writes on Medium.com as [Rev Dr Sparky](#), continuing in her mission to inspire courage in the face of absurdity.*

Sunday, May 28, 2019 - 11:15 am

## In Memoriam

The Worship Team, *leading*

Our assembly this Sunday, In Memoriam, focuses on remembering the women and men who have given their lives in service to the Republic during the 83 wars or other conflicts involving the United States. Over

one and a half million people have died. It is easy to forget events that have happened

"over there" which is

why Americans began honoring the fallen shortly after the civil war. Strange that Memorial Day was not declared a federal holiday until 1971.



## Jim's Jabber

During the assembly last Sunday (May 28) the Rev. Freeman posed a question, "If this church disappeared today, would anyone in the community even notice?" He then called for us to speak out on what would be missed. The list was impressive and included things like the Earth Day Festival; share the bowl offerings; Grayson County Shelter dinners, caring outreach to people in need, assuring the LGBTQ community are welcome, Postcards for Peace, being a Reproductive Justice Congregation. I think everyone felt proud of our small congregation that morning.

Such efforts, along with the countless personal loss any one of us might feel if we closed our doors, are made possible by our hard work, our gifts of time and talents and our financial support. On behalf of the whole board, I want to thank everyone who responded to the "Red River Unitarian Universalists ~ All Ways Unique" Stewardship Campaign. Twenty-three members or friends pledged a total of \$36,016. We have again succeeded in assuring the financial stability of our church. It is important that we are a liberal religious presence in Texoma. Thanks, again, to all who have pledged.

Each year in the May meeting, our bylaws require us to vote on annual goals for the next fiscal year.

## Congrat's Ronda!



Red River UU member Ronda DeCaire was honored Saturday evening (April 27) by being inducted into the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women's Hall of Fame. The honor is bestowed on women who have distinguished themselves over the years not only as leaders in Democratic politics in Oklahoma but also in the wider community. Ronda was nominated by the Bryan County Federation of Democratic Women, which she currently serves as both president and fundraising chair.

Among the many accomplishments cited in her nomination, Ronda has led BCFDW in hosting candidates and other informative speakers both at club meetings and community-wide forums and dinners, contributing thousands of dollars to campaigns, and supporting local charities. An idea generator, Ronda originated and led the planning for

Some years we've had a number of goals, last year we approved three goals, they were:

- Establish a Monarch Waystation
- Create a Long Range Planning Committee
- Re-establish our Endowment Committee.

So everyone bring your ideas on what you want our goals to be for the new budget year so we can discuss and vote on them. Remember, successful goals must meet three conditions:

- be specific
- be attainable
- be measurable.

The Board has completed an updated list of the work remaining for the repairs from the water damage, basement, and RE improvements to the 2nd floor. We are now looking for contractors to quote on this work. If any of you know contractors that you like and trust please pass their names on to me.

And finally, remember the Spring Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> starting with a catered lunch from Dickey's Barbecue Pit. Lunch and the meeting are open to everyone, ours is a transparent form of governance so please come and participate. Members are reminded that the meeting packet will be emailed on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and on line voting starts that day for those who will be unable to attend.

events such as the Southeastern Oklahoma Democratic Picnic, which for two summers has attracted Democrats from eight counties, and the Harvest Moon BarBQ dinner, which is held biannually and in October 2018 raised more than \$2,000 from ticket sales and a service auction. Besides serving Red River UU as a worship associate, Ronda is an active member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Good-Times Team, and of Moveable Feast Chalice Circle. She has just completed a term as president of her Woodmen of the World local chapter and is working with the American Association of Retired Persons to lobby Oklahoma legislators for progressive legislation with state-wide impact.

A three-time cancer survivor, Ronda hasn't let illness slow her down. She has two daughters and a son and is her grandchildren's most vocal supporter at their softball and basketball events.

Congratulations, Ronda.

# Earth Day Festival Rained Out



For the second year in a row, Mother Nature showed up for the Texoma Earth Day Festival in the form of heavy rain and thunderstorms. A handful of vendors set up but quickly broke down. The two recycling trucks were

both an hour late and stayed until noon. We moved the youth art show and entertainment indoors with the children's activities and community wide swap meet. The swap meet was moderately successful, with around 25 people participating. We had many requests from people who had nothing to bring but asked if they would be able to come take items. Many people who brought things didn't return to swap. This presents an opportunity to reframe the event.

We had a couple of great successes with the program. We published a comprehensive recycling guide that will be a valuable resource for several regional organizations, including Texoma Council of Governments and Keep Denison Beautiful. We were able to distribute around 450 shopping bags and around 300 recycling guides at the festival. Our printer left out 2 pages of content in our recycling guide, so we will be provided with 500 corrected copies this week. We are strategizing distribution of the guides.

The Earth Day Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 in the chapel. We will review and evaluate the 2019 festival and discuss possibilities for 2020. Many of our team members have had health challenges in the past year, and two have moved away. We welcome participation by anyone who would like to join us.

## May Birthdays

🎂 09 Ellie Dyer

🎂 27 Don Mathis

Are you a May baby, but don't see your big day listed? You can be! Just add yourself by sending your birthday to [news@redriveruu.org](mailto:news@redriveruu.org)

## Literary Domination Society

May 10 is the date of the FINAL meeting this (church) year. Come talk about anything you're reading now or have read before or are planning to read. You'll get plenty of ideas for a summer of reading.

## Moveable Feast

The Feasters are planning a dinner during May. Date to be determined. Check the wednesdayUPDATE for etails.

## Spring Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Lunch - 12:30

Meeting - 1 pm

The Spring Meeting is our opportunity to participate in a living tradition that dates back hundreds of years: congregational polity. During the meeting we will elect new church leadership; approve a balanced budget for fiscal 2019-2020, discuss a new strategic plan for the next five years; and create goals we would like to accomplish during the next year.

Some agenda highlights:

- 🗳️ Brief reports from the Board, Membership, Membership Committee, Committee on Ministry, and the LGBTQ Welcoming Committee
- 🗳️ Strategic Planning report
- 🗳️ Select Goals for next year
- 🗳️ Naming the Monarch Waystation
- 🗳️ Approve the new balanced budget
- 🗳️ Elect new church leadership

Congregational polity is a right in the free church tradition. So is transparency. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy lunch catered by Dickey's Barbecue Pit. and stay to participate in the meeting.

Members who won't be able to be at the meeting may vote on line using the link below. Voting starts on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Proxy ballot are available from the packet of meeting documents. The packet will be mailed to the membership on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in accordance to our bylaws.

## Welcoming Congregation

Committee meets Sunday, May 5 @ 12:45 - chapel

## Board of Trustees

will not meet in May because of the spring congregational meeting. They meet again next on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the chapel.

# Meet the Candidates

who have agreed to run for a leadership position. Early voting via the App starts on 5/13, or during the mtg.



**Lisa Cates**  
**Board Vice President**

I live and work in Sherman. I'm a member of the Welcoming Congregation Committee. I have a son in college in Pennsylvania and I have a daughter that is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Sherman public school system.

*(Daughter Angie is also a member of Red River UU and along with Ellie Dyer tends to visiting children on Sunday mornings).*



**L. D. Clark**  
**Nominating Committee**

Been on the Board twice before (or was it thrice?), been a Unitarian since 1996, started out at First Church in Dallas and was the chair of the Social Action Committee, formed the Red River Acoustic Music Society (RRAMS) in March of 2000. Honor graduate of UT Austin. (Reluctant) military veteran – USAF. Have one grown son who lives in Sherman.



**Kelly Cofield-Dyer**  
**Nominating Committee**

Kelly Cofield-Dyer is the proud mother of Ellie Dyer, wife of David Dyer and loving human mother to canine children Bertie, Chiquita and Abby. She loves being on the Care Team, attending church conferences with Marla and enjoys Chinese food at every opportunity.



**David Dyer**  
**Board Secretary**

Married to the best women a man could hope for. Raising the best young lady, a parent could ask for. Proud member of Red River Unitarian Universalists for several years; I am happy for the lessons I've learned and the friends I have made. I am willing to help out where needed.



**Elbert Hill**  
**Committee on Ministry**

Dr. Elbert R. Hill, Professor Emeritus of English from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, is a charter member of Red River UU. He has held these positions in the church: board member, president of the congregation, committee on ministry, nominating committee, co-facilitator of Movable Feast chalice circle. He often represents Red River UU as its delegate at the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Trustee at large**

**TBA**

# Treasurer's Report

In the month of March, we had total receipts of \$9,451.69, which included a generous donation of \$1,000.00 for additional building repairs and a \$5,000.00 pre-payment of a pledge for the next fiscal year. Expenses for the month totaled \$6,715.29, including \$3,261.58 of additional building maintenance/renovation expenses, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of February of \$2,736.40.

As of March 31, 2019, we had \$11,256.46 available in checking, a total of \$66,958.18 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,625.56 in Certificates of Deposit.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

## Our Common Read for May

### The LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Report to the church community:

The congregation of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church (Red River UU) voted to pursue becoming an official Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) at the Congregational Meeting on May 21, 2017. A committee was created in early 2018 to study and fulfill the requirements of the UUA to achieve this goal. Current and past members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee are Rebecca Crystal, Chris Clark, Jack Bolerjack, Marla Loturco, Amy Hoffman-Shehan, Jen Linson, Adrian Hinman, Linn Cates, Lisa Cates, Angela Cates and Ashley Newlin.

#### A Welcoming Congregation Commitments:

1. A Welcoming Congregation is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer at every level of congregational life—in worship, in program, and in social occasions—welcoming not only their presence but the unique gifts and particularities of their lives as well.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church has historically practiced inclusiveness at every level of congregational life. Our congregation has been educated about terminology and issues in relation to the LGBTQ community. In addition, special training has been given to our greeters and hosts to make sure we use language that is inclusive and addresses people as people first.*

2. A Welcoming Congregation does not assume anyone's affectional/sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Vocabulary of worship reflects this perception; worship celebrates diversity by [inclusivity of language](#) and content.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church has worked hard to make sure our language in our worship services and printed programs is gender neutral. We have added more content about LGBTQ issues and persons in our worship services through program topics, readings and music.*

3. An understanding of the experience of lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgender, and queer persons is fully incorporated by a Welcoming Congregation throughout all programs, including religious education.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church is a small congregation and has very few children in attendance. We intend to send members of the congregation to train as facilitators for OWL (Our Whole Lives) for the next few years so we can offer the program to our youth and the wider community.*

4. The bylaws and other official documents of a Welcoming Congregation include an [affirmation and nondiscrimination clause](#) affecting all dimensions of congregational life, including membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.

*The bylaws of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church have been reviewed by a member of the Welcoming Congregation Committee. Minor changes in wording will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting in May. The Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing and rewriting the Policies and Procedures. They will remove any gender specific language during the process.*

5. A Welcoming Congregation engages in outreach into lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, both through its advertising and by actively supporting other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer affirmative groups.

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee created a LGBTQ Meetup group and a LGBTQ Facebook page as official outreach of the congregation. There have been several events sponsored by the committee through the Meetup group. Invitations to worship services and adult forum education on LGBTQ issues have been extended through the Meetup group and Facebook page. Events include a potluck dinner on June 24, 2018 and a Thanksgiving potluck on November 24, 2018*

*Events created through the LGBTQ Meet Up Group include invitations to the Adult Forum series, two potluck meals with discussion, and a No Pressure Valentine's Mixer on February 9, 2019.*

*In addition, we sponsored Christmas gifts for a family with same sex parents who could not provide presents for their children and grandchild. We have connected with a new Christian church that affirms and supports the LGBTQ community and plan to work with them on outreach and education.*

*We aspire for several outreach programs in the next year. We have asked the congregation to vote on being a sponsor of the first Pride Festival in Grayson County to be held in June of this year.*

6. A Welcoming Congregation offers congregational and ministerial support for services of union and memorial services for persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer, and celebrations of evolving definitions of family.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church has historically supported and hosted support services for persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. We have hosted two same sex unions and a reception for a same sex couple who married in another state before it was legal for them to marry in Texas.*

7. A Welcoming Congregation celebrates the lives of all people and welcomes same-gender couples, recognizing their committed relationships, and equally affirms displays of caring and affection without regard for sexual orientation.

## Action Steps

*Our congregation has a history of embracing and supporting same-gender couples throughout our entire lifespan. We have hosted same-gender commitment ceremonies and receptions years before marriage was legal for these couples.*

8. A Welcoming Congregation seeks to nurture ongoing dialogue between people of different affectional/sexual orientations and gender identities, and to create deeper trust and sharing.

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee is creating dialogue through contributions to Adult Forum, worship services, and social events. Part of the ongoing dialogue is articles about our activities in the monthly newsletter, Red River Ramblings. Monthly meeting notices and reports on our actions are a regular part of the newsletter, including six articles since May 2018.*

*The committee plans several outreach service projects over the next few years. In the immediate future, we plan to create a support group. We will allow the group to decide the direction and other service projects that will be taken on.*

9. A Welcoming Congregation encourages the presence of a chapter of [Interweave](#) (Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns).

*Since Interweave is no longer an active group within the Unitarian Universalist Association, we chose to create a Meetup group and Facebook page.*

10. A Welcoming Congregation affirms and celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues and history during the church year.

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee conducted a service about pronouns and identities to educate the congregation on how people identify. The congregation celebrated the life of Bayard Rustin during Black History Month and will observe National Transgender Awareness Day in March. The committee has supplied the Worship Committee with a list of important dates and will continue to suggest readings and topics to the committee.*

11. A Welcoming Congregation, as an advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, attends to legislative developments and works to promote justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society. It speaks out when the rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are at stake.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church is a lay led congregation. Our church occasionally struggles responding to issues that come up in our community because we do not have an official voice of the congregation. The Welcoming Congregation aspires to write statements of consensus for congregational approval for times in the future when members of the local LGBTQ community are at risk.*

12. A Welcoming Congregation celebrates the lives of all people and their ways of expressing their love for each other.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church strives to do this through our greeter and host program, making sure everyone who visits our congregation feels genuinely welcomed and valued as a person. Greeters are the first point of contact as regular attendees and visitors enter the building. A host is available to help orient new visitors to our congregation and the building. They follow up after the service to invite guests to Calories and Conversation in order to continue the conversation.*

## **Education**

1. Offer religious education for people of all ages that incorporates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer life issues.

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee offered a series of 5 classes on LGBTQ issues, terminology and history during the adult religious education discussion group Adult Forum. The classes were held Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 on September 9 through October 7, 2018. Topics covered were Marginalization of the LGBTQ+Community by Different Religions, Society's Stigmatization, Unitarian Universalist Involvement and Useful Terms. Each session was followed by a time for discussion. The classes were well attended, drawing some of the largest numbers of participants in Adult Forum in recent years.*

*Our next action step is to request a line item in the budget to cover training for facilitators for OWL (Our Whole Lives). The congregation will vote on the budget at the May congregational meeting.*

2. Promote participation by congregational leaders, including the minister(s), religious education minister or director, president, moderator, and board members in the Welcoming Congregation Program.

*Our congregation does not have a called minister. We have had board representation on the Welcoming Congregation Committee until the past few months.*

3. As part of the Welcoming Congregation Program, offer congregation-wide educational opportunities (such as a workshop series), with follow-up opportunities for study and reflection.

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee has offered several educational opportunities. Greeters and hosts attended a training session and discussion about welcoming language and how to avoid gender specific language or language that labels people in April 2018. They were all provided materials on inclusive language and sexual orientation and gender identity from the UUA website. We held a series of classes on LGBTQ issues and history during our Adult Forum discussion group, as outlined above.*

*The June 17, 2018 worship service "Once Upon a Nightmare, Growing Up Gay in America" was the speaker Doug Strong's personal story of coming out in 1974 after 30 years of living in fear of being outed.*

*The Welcoming Congregation Committee offered a worship service titled "What's with All Those Pronouns?" July 29, 2018 educated the congregation about the pronouns people who are LGBTQ may choose to use to identify themselves.*

*The November 25, 2018 worship service "Know Your Status" was in honor of World AIDS Day. Speaker Christopher Grimes is the Outreach/Prevention Supervisor and a Case Manager at The Callie Clinic. He provides education on HIV and other STD's and offers free and confidential screening.*

*"Bayard Rustin, the Gay Socialist Pacifist Who Planned the 1963 March on Washington" was the topic for Sunday, February 24, 2019. In honor of Black History Month, our worship team chose to highlight a less known historical figure who also happened to be gay.*

4. Use the UUsexuality education program [Our Whole Lives](#).

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church currently does not offer Our Whole Lives or have any members who are trained as facilitators. The Welcoming Congregation Committee requested the board place training fees as a budget item for the next congregational meeting, which will be held May 19, 2019.*

### **Congregational Life**

5. Form a broad-based Welcoming Congregation committee to design and offer programming and monitor progress.

*A Welcoming Congregation Committee was formed during the summer of 2018. Past and present members include Rebecca Crystal, Christopher Clark-Grimes, Jerry Barrax, Shanna (Jack) Bolerjack, Jen Linson, Amy Hoffman-Shehan, Adrian Hinson, Marla Loturco, Linn Cates, Lisa Cates, Angela Cates, and Ashley Newlin.*

6. Adjust congregational bylaws and other relevant documents to include an [affirmative nondiscrimination clause](#) concerning membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.

*One of the members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee reviewed the bylaws for language and found one or two items that include gender specific language. There will be a vote on replacement language during the congregational meeting May 19, 2019.*

7. Use [inclusive language](#) and content as a regular part of worship services, and provide worship coordinators and speakers with guidelines on inclusive language.

*Red River Unitarian Universalist Church has a history of using inclusive language. Two members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee are also members of the Worship Committee and are working with that committee to make sure language used in services is inclusive.*

8. For members and members' families, provide main worship space and ministerial services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer rites of passage, such as services of union, dedications of children, and gender-affirming ceremonies.

*Our congregation has hosted services of union, rites of passage, and baby dedication ceremonies. Since we do not have a called minister, we have limited opportunities to perform ceremonies or provide spiritual ministry. Our building use policy allows for rental for any of the above ceremonies, though it has not historically stated that it was available for same sex unions or transgender rites of passage. We have requested the wording be updated.*

9. Welcome people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer in places such as the congregation's website, brochure, and orders of service.

*We welcome people who are LGBTQ on our website and Facebook page, in signage in the chapel, and our Red River LGBTQ Facebook page.*

10. Ensure that publications, public information, and programming reflect the requested status of all individuals as they see appropriate; recognize same-gender couples and transgender individuals in directories and other publications as they desire.

*Red River UU has been working for several years to review our language in our public information and programming uses gender neutral language. The biographies included in the printed programs use the appropriate status and identity of the speaker. Our directory of members and friends has traditionally used the term*

*spouse/partner when there is a one and omits that information when there isn't one.*

### **Community Outreach**

11. Celebrate and affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues and history during the church year (possible options include [Pride](#), [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#), and [National Coming Out Day](#)).

*Members of Red River UU have participated in Dallas Pride Festival and Parade along with other north Texas Unitarian Universalists for many years. We observed Transgender Day of Awareness on March 24, 2019. Our guest speaker was a woman who had been denied tenure at a local university after transitioning. She successfully sued the university and is currently suing to attempt to be reinstated with tenure.*

*Our congregation also participates annually in a Community Fair at Austin College in Sherman. It's an event held at the beginning of the fall semester where local non-profits set up tables so incoming students can learn about opportunities to connect in the community. Our booth at the 2018 Community Fair featured the inclusiveness of the congregation.*

*A Pride festival will take place in our county for the first time this coming June. Our Welcoming Congregation Committee plans to have a booth at the festival, and we have requested sponsorship of the festival be included in the budget for the next fiscal year.*

12. Participate in and/or support efforts to create justice, freedom, and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in the larger society.

*We have the opportunity of working closely with a Christian church in our community that is affirming to people who identify as LGBTQ. We are in discussion about jointly offering programs and services over the next several years. Some of the possible programs and services are*

*We use social media to promote justice, freedom and equality through our Red River LGBTQ Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter.*

*Since our congregation does not have a called minister or official spokesperson who can make statements of conscience to the wider community, our current policy required any public statements in the name of the church be approved by congregational vote. Our committee has requested a change in the policy. The board is in the process of writing new policies and procedures, which will be voted on during the May congregational meeting.*

13. For members of your congregation's larger community, provide main worship space and ministerial services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer rites of passage, such as services of union, dedications of children, and gender-affirming ceremonies.

*The building is available for any of these services.*

14. Establish and maintain contact with local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer groups and organizations, to build relationships, offer support in whatever ways are needed, and promote dialogue and interaction.

(Report continued on next page)

# Leaders

## Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*  
Linn Cates, *Vice President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
Kelly Cofield-Dyer, *Secretary*  
L.D. Clark, *Trustee*  
Helen Schulze, *Past President*  
Nominations: *Amy, Elbert, David*

## Committee on Ministry:

*Dan Althoff, Marla Loturco, Robert Shelton*

## Nominating Committee:

*David Dyer, Elbert Hill, Amy Hoffman-Shehan*

## Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Jerry*  
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug, Jim*  
Building: *Jim*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*  
Finance:  
Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda*  
Membership: *Aprion*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action: *Rebecca*  
Worship: *Doug, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

# Contact Us

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## How to reach us:

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- Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-Church)
- Mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free from the [Apps Store](#) and [Google Play](#).
- Calendar [here](#)

*Our Welcoming Congregation Committee is actively communicating with other groups and organizations in the area, including a committee organizing the first ever Pride Festival to be held in Grayson County, TX and a Church of Texoma, a Christian LGBTQ church. We hope to partner with Church of Texoma in community outreach and to provide services to the broader community.*

15. Advertise in the local press and/or other media that reaches lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer communities.

15. Advertise in the local press and/or other media that reaches lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer communities.

*Our community doesn't have any press that specifically targets people who identify as LGBTQ. We have plans to advertise in a local arts publication in the immediate future.*

16. Provide use of building space when requested by members for programs and meetings of groups such as an [Interweave](#) (Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns) chapter, and also provide use of building space when requested by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community groups.

*Since Interweave is no longer active within the UUA, we decided to start a meet up group. We have hosted several gatherings, but we found that we have able to attract very few people outside our congregation. We held a No Pressure Valentine's Day mixer, and we decided to make it an annual event because of feedback from people who only learned about it after the fact.*

# Circles & Interest Groups

*Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.*

**EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE** ~ the group is responsible for the creation, each year, of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event are invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Next Meeting, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 - in the chapel Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *facilitator*

**LITERARY DOMINATION SOCIETY** ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. This month they meet for an hour on the third Friday @ 1 pm in the Emerson Room. Carolyn Cameron, *facilitator*.

**MEDITATION** ~ current on hiatus until further notice.

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